



News Release

Memphis and Shelby County Health Department
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3 More West Nile Virus Cases in Shelby County

MEMPHIS, TN - [The Memphis and Shelby County Health Department](#) and [the Tennessee Department of Health](#) (TDH) [announced today there](#) are three (3) new [human cases of West Nile Virus](#) (WNV) in [Shelby County](#). Two individuals have been released from local hospitals and are recovering; the other individual remains hospitalized. This brings the total number of human WNV cases in Shelby County to eight (8). One death due to WNV has been reported this year in Shelby County.

Levels of viral activity in the environment continue to be elevated, as indicated by surveillance data. Additional human cases are likely occurring and health officials expect approximately the same level of disease as in the previous two years. In comparison to this year in 2004 by the middle of September, ten (10) WNV cases had been verified in Shelby County. Residents should continue to take protective measures to help prevent disease as outdoor activities may increase as fall approaches.

[Humans catch](#) the disease through being bitten by [infected mosquitoes](#). The virus is not transmitted to humans directly through birds or from humans or other [animals](#). [Although the virus can occasionally cause](#) severe disease, [most human infections are mild, resulting in fever, headache and body aches that last only a few days. Symptoms of](#) severe disease [include a high fever, neck stiffness, stupor, disorientation, coma or convulsions.](#) Persons over age 50 and immunocompromised individuals are at higher risk of severe disease.

[Citizens](#) are urged [to minimize the risk of being bitten by mosquitoes by following precautions to protect themselves from possible exposure to infected mosquitoes, including the safe use of mosquito repellents.](#)